



10/013,107

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	WAGNER ET AL.	Examiner:	J. HEWITT
Serial No.:	10/013,107	Group Art Unit:	3679
Filed:	DECEMBER 7, 2001	Docket No.:	758.1231US01
Title:	STRAP CLAMP		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 22, 2003.

By:  
Name:

*Wayne M. Wagner*  
*Wayne M. Wagner*

DECLARATION OF WAYNE M. WAGNER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

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**GROUP 3600**

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Dear Sir:

1. My name is Wayne Wagner. I reside at 120 Redwood Drive in Apple Valley, Minnesota.
2. I am employed as an engineer at Donaldson Company. I have been designing exhaust clamps for Donaldson for over 30 years.
3. I was the first named inventor for Donaldson's first bent bolt style exhaust clamp. This clamp is disclosed in United States Patent No. 4,558,891.
4. I am also a named inventor in United States Patent No. 6,305,054 which discloses a more recent version of a bent bolt clamp sold by Donaldson Company.
5. I have found that both the type of clamp disclosed in the '891 patent, as well as the clamps disclosed in the '054 patent, can cause puckering and pinching of pipes between the ends of the strap when used to clamp a pipe. This is particularly true when the clamps are used on flexible pipe.
6. When the Donaldson design team of the present application began brainstorming regarding strap clamp designs configured for reducing the likelihood of puckering and pinching of flexible pipe, the concept of using an intermesh configuration was discussed. Initially, I was

not confident that an interlock configuration would address the problems associated with puckering and pinching.

7. Upon designing and prototyping multiple iterations of strap clamps with interlocking edges, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was possible to reduce puckering and pinching by using an interlock configuration.

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 6-20-03

Wayne M. Wagner  
Wayne M. Wagner